



United States
Environmental
Protection Agency

US Army Corps
Of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751



LONG ISLAND SOUND
DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL EIS

Working Group Meeting #3

Port Jefferson, NY
March 5, 2002

July, 2002

LIS-2002-WG03-3

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1.0 INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regions I and II (EPA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (the Corps), are proceeding with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS will consider the potential designation of one or more dredged material disposal sites in the waters of Long Island Sound (LIS) consistent with the provisions of Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) and 40 CFR 230.80 of EPA's regulations under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Prior to making a decision on designation, the EPA is required to evaluate the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a range of alternatives for disposal of dredged material in the waters of LIS. In conducting this evaluation, NEPA requires that the public be given the opportunity for input in the scoping of analyses and review of the EIS.

At public workshops held in April 2000 in Port Jefferson, NY and Groton, CT, the public was invited to participate in working groups in the development of the LIS Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation EIS. The first working group meeting was held in Old Lyme, CT on July 19, 2000. The second working group meeting was held in Bridgeport, CT on April 26, 2001. The third working group meeting was held in Port Jefferson, NY on March 5, 2002. This meeting was arranged by Ann Rodney, EPA by a notice dated January 11, 2002 (Appendix A).

The purpose of the meeting was to update the working group on completed reports (agenda included in Appendix B). Activities reported include: a summary of findings on the characterization of sediment chemistry, benthic community and triad at the four existing disposal sites; fish resources; physical oceanography; and economics (dredging needs and economic impact). Thirty three (33) individuals attended (Appendix E).

Ann Rodney facilitated the meeting.

2.0 DISCUSSION

The following general topics were presented:

- **Sediments** (Chemistry, Benthic Community, and Triad Analysis) – David Mitchell, PhD., ENSR
- **Resources** (Fish Studies & Essential Fish Habitat) – Drew Carey, PhD., CoastalVision
- **Physical Oceanography** – Kenneth Hickey, ENSR
- **Economics** (Dredging Needs and Economic Impact) – Richard Ring, USACE, New England District and Scott Hazelton, DRI-WEFA

Following each presentation the floor was opened to questions, comments and other discussion. Questions raised and comments made by working group members are shown in italics and responses, if given, in normal type face. In some instances no responses were necessary and the comments will be considered in the development of the EIS. The morning session covered the sediment and resource presentations. The afternoon session covered the physical oceanography, dredging needs and economic impact analysis. In addition to the presentations, summary data for each agenda topic were displayed on a poster available for review throughout the day. Reduced size copies of each poster is included in Appendix D.

Following the meeting a draft copy of this report was distributed to the working group on June 5, 2002. No responses were received.

2.1 OPENING REMARKS

Mark Habel, Corps of Engineers Project Manager, opened the meeting and provided a summary of meeting topics. The EIS project has completed an assessment of the sediment, resources and physical oceanography of the four existing disposal sites. The study has also completed a dredging needs survey and evaluation and an evaluation of the economic impact of navigation-dependent industries. The next major step will be disposal site screening. A copy of the complete presentation is included in Appendix C.

2.2 SEDIMENTS

David Mitchell, PhD, ENSR, presented the results of the sediment data collection and analyses of the existing four disposal sites. The objective of this sediment characterization is to identify the physical, chemical and biological characteristics at or near the disposal sites and compare these characteristics to background reference and historic disposal site locations. This information is used to identify potential concerns to biological communities due to sediment quality. The studies found that the sediments are in

generally good condition in nearly all the locations. A copy of the complete presentation is included in Appendix C.

Sediments Discussion:

1. ***Where were the sediment samples taken (depth)?*** Grab samples were taken from the top six (6) inches + or -, which is consistent with areas of greater biological activity. Biological sampling was taken to a depth of 20 cm, which is the approximate depth of penetration for most benthic organisms.
2. ***Where are the PCBs?*** PCBs, due to their hydrophobic nature, are typically found associated with the organic carbon fraction of the LIS sediments. That is, they are found in abundance in areas of fine-grained sediments rich in organic carbon, but are largely absent in coarse-grained sands and rocky areas. This is a consistent trend in the patterns found at the LIS sites.
3. ***What about samples for far field?*** Far field samples represent samples located outside of the areas of historic or current disposal activities, but which generally have the same physical composition. While they are not strictly reference sediments (which have been well-characterized and have no known impacts), they can functionally be used as local background samples. NLDS sample NL1KE was outside the area where material was disposed.
4. ***Was there any sampling at the old historic disposal sites (not within the four existing sites)?*** No. However, one of the WLIS sampling sites, located outside the current site footprint, was historic.
5. ***Testing was done for sediments. What about contaminants in pore water? Don't organisms ingest the pore water?*** Whole sediment toxicity testing was conducted on a large number of sediments from all the LIS disposal and reference sites. This type of toxicity testing measures the survivorship of organisms that colonize the test sediments and are exposed to the pore water. Pore water represents the concentration resulting from the equilibrium between the sediments and the interstitial water and is the actual medium of potential toxicity. Since the toxicity tests were uniformly without a toxic response (i.e., all test organisms survived), it can be directly inferred that the pore water concentrations were acceptable.
6. ***Was any effort made to take measurements at recent disposal events (from Mamaroneck and Seawolf)?*** Yes, we sampled New London Seawolf but not the Mamaroneck site. ***Did you sample the actual material dumped?*** We waited until the material stabilized, but samples were taken from within the areas of disposal. ***Was the Seawolf material still where it was disposed?*** Since there is good evidence, based on bottom topography, that historic disposal mounds persist over time, it is likely that the Seawolf disposal material was still at the original disposal site. However, that could be checked with DAMOS data.

2.3 RESOURCES

Drew Carey, PhD, Coastal Vision, presented an overview of fish resources and habitats including data collected from Connecticut DEP trawls and an essential fish habitat analysis. A copy of the complete presentation is included in Appendix C.

Resources Discussion:

1. ***New York state has a “community structure” approach to fish data analysis. Did you use this approach?*** No. Our approach was a type of community analysis (similar to benthic community analyses).
2. ***Did you measure temperature?*** No. It is interesting to compare spring and fall. There are a lot of variables in addition to seasons.
3. ***Are the toxicity levels from different areas completed?*** Yes. We studied the overall effects of toxicity on the marine species in general. We found that there was no Sound-wide pattern to the levels of toxicity. The tissue bioaccumulation studies are just beginning on samples taken previously. The collection was designed to study the potential for bioaccumulation in fish at disposal sites compared to reference areas. We will analyze samples of three fish species collected from trawls and compare their levels to sediment levels.
4. ***Is there any additional information regarding the data gaps for Block Island Sound? Is it anticipated that the study would fill in those data gaps? There are numbers of protected marine species residing in that area. Are these protected species going to be incorporated into the data?*** Block Island Sound data is not as comprehensive as the CT DEP trawl data. The Block Island Sound resource data was not stratified by bottom type and the sampling stations are more widespread. This means that we have to treat the data in a more general fashion than were able to do within Long Island Sound. Block Island Sound data will be reviewed for site screening. We will look at this data qualitatively rather than quantitatively.
5. ***Is there any correlation in the CT DEP data with major disposal events?*** We started looking at that and found a short-term change where fish counts dropped at one site. We have not looked for individual disposal events. There is no evidence of attraction or repulsion of fish at disposal sites. We have put a lot of effort into reviewing DAMOS data which is Sound-wide. We are not looking at specific sites. The impact issue would be best measured by analyzing bioaccumulation results. This would provide a snapshot of impacts.

6. ***Did you break out anadromous fish?*** We looked at all species. Some species, particularly anadromous fish, do not show up well in trawls because they do not spend much time on the bottom. We are more concerned with demersal fish which are in contact with the bottom.
7. ***Was there any study done on commercial catch that shows commercial pressure?*** CT DEP's role, their mandate, is to track commercial catch and managerial issues.
8. ***Population changes, up or down, may be due to factors other than disposal or commercial catch such as global warming.*** We have not attempted to show cause and effect.

2.4 PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY

Ken Hickey, ENSR, gave an overview of the recently completed Sound-wide physical oceanography evaluation report. In summary, the study included review of existing data, a Spring 2001 field data collection program resulting in an extensive hydrodynamic data set and modeling of the worst-case storm event. The results confirmed and expanded our previous understanding of the study area. This information is sufficient to support Sound-wide characterization for the EIS. A copy of the complete presentation is included in Appendix C.

Physical Oceanography Discussion:

1. ***Can your equipment setup be applied to additional measurements in the future?*** Yes, the equipment setup used is consistent with both past data collection activities (e.g., NOS surveys) and potential future data collection activities. The Spring 2001 data will be readily comparable with future data. To get more detailed coverage we recommend using the same equipment types and database format.
2. ***What kind of data is available outside LIS (in the ocean)? Are you looking beyond LIS for disposal sites? The Ocean Dumping Act requires it.*** Our study was confined to LIS and Block Island Sound. The Rhode Island Sound study has used current meters so that data should be available for areas beyond Block Island Sound.
3. ***Why didn't you include CSDS?*** CSDS was ruled out due to its proximity to "The Race" and associated strong currents.
4. ***Where were bottom measurements taken?*** Near-bottom current measurements were collected at one meter above the bottom.

5. ***Why did you take the measurements in the spring? Maximum winds are expected during the spring and fall seasons.*** Spring 2001 was selected to increase the potential for capturing worst-case (i.e., maximum) current conditions.

2.5 ECONOMICS

Richard Ring, Corps of Engineers, presented the results of the dredging needs survey and estimate of future dredging needs for both private and Federal navigation projects for the next 20 years. The response to the survey was 29%. Dredging needs, presented for 28 dredging centers, totaled 32 million cubic yards in volume. Scott Hazelton, DRI-WEFA, presented results of model studies to show the economic significance of navigation-dependent industries. Results were displayed in terms of impact on gross state product (GSP), employment, income and tax receipts. The study area was broken down into eight areas to display results. In summary: over 52,000 jobs are affected, \$7 billion in income and about \$850 million in tax receipts would be affected in the study area. Both presentations are included in Appendix C.

Economics Discussion:

1. ***Can you dredge (or remove) material from upstream areas before it moves down into the harbor?*** The Corps can only dredge Federal channels. We have to wait until the material reaches the harbor and causes shoaling before we can dredge.
2. ***What is the average dredging need for the next 20 years?*** About two (2) million cubic yards per year. A very small component of this will be improvement dredging.
3. ***Bridgeport does not show major impact (on poster). Why dredge it? Are we projecting an impact?*** They are making changes that will increase maritime commerce in Bridgeport. Although the pie chart is small compared to others, the impacts are still significant. Our analysis is based on existing conditions, not projected future conditions.
4. ***The chart shows that the agriculture category has less impact than mining?*** You have to consider that mining includes concrete, asphalt, sand, and gravel which are important bulk cargoes borne by water-based transportation in the region.
5. ***The results significantly underestimate CT boat slip rentals. Brewer employs over 200 people in CT.*** The recreation boating figures were an add-on. These figures should be added to the direct impacts shown in the model results.

- 6. *The environmental issues will close down disposal and dredging. We should justify dredging on economics. The environmental issues are based on emotion. If we don't dredge, the Coast Guard will limit passage resulting in lightering. Lightering is risky and leads to environmental impacts.***

2.6 STATUS OF EIS PROJECT

Mark Habel, Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, New England District provided a summary of project status.

- In Fiscal Year 2002 the Corps received \$900,000. An additional \$200,000 was added. Most of these funds went toward tissue testing. Mark indicated that this meeting was the last task involving ENSR.
- In Fiscal Year 2003 the Corps expects about \$1 M. Site screening is the next major step in the EIS process.
- The cost estimate for the EIS process is about \$11 M. To date over \$4 M has been spent
- The Corps and EPA have sent letters to CT DEP. On February 18, 2004 CLIS will close (for projects > 25,000 cubic yards or Federal projects) as this will end the second 5-year period.

Project Status Discussion:

1. ***Is anyone asking for additional funding?*** Yes. Both the Corps and EPA have requested funds. Ocean dumping issues are a low priority in the EPA. There is little political interest in the disposal issue. At the same time there are many dollars going into LIS clean-up programs through EPA's Long Island Sound Program.
2. ***It is a shame that we have invested over \$4M – it doesn't make sense to drop it now.***

3.0 WRAP-UP

Ann Rodney announced that a draft of the notes of the meeting would be distributed for comment.

APPENDIX A

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

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NOTICE SENT January 11, 2002

From: Rodney.Ann@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Rodney.Ann@epamail.epa.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2002 1:54 PM

To: awaters@savethesound.org; bay@friendsofthebay.org; bei@debiz.com;
bjm@byy.com; bkelly6313@aol.com; bradk@marinenv.com;
brbryan@fishersisland.net; ckral@javanet.com; cleanhbr@aol.com;
cmta@snet.net; ctmaritime@msn.com; ctpilot@erols.com; CSqueri@aol.com;
dajjsj@aol.com; dwnorth@aol.com; essexisland@aol.com;
george.proios@co.suffolk.ny.us; gulbran@battelle.org; hanluksam@aol.com;
jack@byy.com; johnny.mac@att.net; jsjohnson20@hotmail.com; kwj@bnl.gov;
kwj@bnl.gov; mcmyacht@aol.com; mpurnell@snet.net; mreiser@marinenv.com;
mtristin@logistec.com; Milfordtrees@aol.com; rfromer@snet.net;
rmcomeau@netscape.net; RPOTTS@BYY.com; sailerct@connix.com;
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salata.joseph@snet.net; susan.e.holtham@usace.army.mil;
Tedesco.Mark@epamail.epa.gov; Tomey.David@epamail.epa.gov

Subject: LIS EIS Working Group Meeting - March 5th

Hello,

The EPA and the Corps will be holding a LIS EIS Working Group meeting at Danfords Port Jefferson, NY, on March 5th.

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Time: 9:30am - 4pm

Place: Diplomatic Room, Danfords Inn, Port Jefferson, NY.

This Working Group meeting will be an informational meeting on field work completed. The preliminary agenda is:

9:30am - Welcome/intro

9:45am - Sediments. (Chemistry, Benthic Community, and Triad - presentation, Q & A)

11:15am - Resources. (Fish studies and Essential Fish Habitat - presentation, Q & A)

12:15 - lunch (on your own)

1:00pm - Physical Oceanography. (presentation, Q & A)

2:30pm - Economic. (presentation, Q & A)

4pm - Adjourn

Information for these topics will be placed on the LIS EIS website (www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lisdreg) within the next two weeks. I plan to send you (e-mail) a list of what is new on our website and what reports will be presented, hopefully by next week.

Lunch will be on your own, there is a restaurant at Danfords and a sandwich shop - The Village Way, nearby.

Directions to Danfords Inn can be found at their website - <http://www.Danfords.com/> - or by calling (631) 928-5200. The Port Jefferson Ferry schedule and directions can be found at their website - <http://www.bpjferry.com> - or by calling (516) 473-0286 or (203) 335-2040. (I've also incorporated them into this e-mail). I believe the morning ferries leave Bridgeport, CT at 6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am and return ferry is 4:30pm. Round trip foot passengers, same day is \$15.25 (?), and takes about an hour, 15 minutes.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thanks -
Ann

Ann Rodney
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(617) 918-1538
(617) 918-1505 fax
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Directions to the Danfords Inn:
FROM MANHATTAN-NORTHERN STATE:
Midtown Tunnel to 495 East (Long Island Expressway) to signs for Grand Central Parkway East. Grand Central becomes Northern State Parkway. Northern State East for 30 miles to end. Merge with Route 454 in Hauppauge. Route 454 East for 3 miles-bear left at 347 East (Nesconset Highway) for 8 miles. Left on Route 112 North to Port Jefferson. Right at blinking light on Main Street/Harbor. Danfords is on the left next to the ferry.

FROM MANHATTAN-LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY:
Midtown Tunnel to 495 East (Long Island Expressway) to Exit 62 North (County Road 97/Nicolls Road). Follow County Road 97 North, 8 miles to end- passing SUNY @ Stony Brook. Bear right at Railroad bridge onto Route 25A East. Through Setauket, then into Port Jefferson. Danfords is on the left next to the Ferry.

FROM CONNECTICUT:
The Bridgeport/Port Jefferson ferry docks right in Danfords' backyard. Passengers can take their cars on board if they wish (not necessary). I believe there is a ferry at
For further information, rates and ferry reservations, call (631)473-0286 or (888)443-3779.

Ferry direction to Danfords Inn:
TO BRIDGEPORT, CT:
From I-95 Westbound:
Take Exit 27, at bottom of ramp make left, then straight on Lafayette Street. Continue under rail road bridge and make left on Rail Road Avenue, proceed ahead to ferry access road.

From I-95 Eastbound

Take exit 27 straight ahead to second traffic light. Make right on Lafayette Street and proceed under rail road bridge and make left on Rail Road Avenue, proceed ahead to ferry access road.

From Route 8 & 25:

Take last exit, Exit #1, straight ahead to third traffic light. Left on S. Frontage Rd. make right at Lafayette Street and proceed under rail road bridge make left on Rail Road Avenue, proceed ahead to ferry access road.

Please Note: Walk-on foot passengers MUST use passenger entrance on Walter Street.

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APPENDIX B

AGENDA

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Long Island Sound EIS

AGENDA

Working Group Meeting #3

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Danford's Inn, Port Jefferson, NY

- **9:30am - Welcome/Introduction** - Ann Rodney, EPA and Mark Habel, USACE New England District
- **9:45am - Sediments (Chemistry, Benthic Community, and Triad)** - David Mitchell, Ph.D., ENSR
- **11:15am - Resources (Fish Studies & Essential Fish Habitat)** - Drew Carey, Ph. D., CoastalVision
- **12:15 - Lunch (on your own)**
- **1:00pm - Physical Oceanography** - Ken Hickey, ENSR
- **2:30pm - Dredging Needs and Economic Significance** - Richard Ring, USACE New England District and Scott Hazelton, DRI-WEFA
- **4pm - Adjourn**

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APPENDIX E

ATTENDEES

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Long Island Sound Dredged Material Disposal EIA
Working Group Meeting #3
Danford's Inn
Port Jefferson, NY

March 5, 2002

ATTENDEES

Last Name	First Name and MI		Address	Phone No.	EMAIL
Arnofsky	Pamela	ENSR	89 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543	508-457-7900	parnofsky@ensr.com
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Brochi	Jean	EPA	Boston, MA	617-918-1536	Brochi.Jean@epamail.epa.gov
Bryan	Barry	Fishers Island Conservancy	Box 197 Fishers Island NY 06390	631-788-7166	brbryan@fishersisland.net
Carey	Drew	CoastalVision		401-849-9236	coastal.vision@verizon.net
Chytalo	Karen	NYSDEC		631-444-0430	knchytal@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Copley	Elizabeth	ENSR	2 Technology Park Dr., Westford, MA 01886-3140	978-589-3000	ecopley@ensr.com
Fredericks	Henry	Maguire Group	One Court St., New Britain, CT	860-224-9141	nfedericks@maguiregroup.com
Gash	William	Connecticut Maritime Coalition, Inc.	165 State Street, Suite 402, New London CT 06330	860-433-0848	ctmaritime@msn.com
Habel	Mark	Corps of Engineers, New England Dist.	Concord, MA	978-318-8871	
Hazelton	Scott	DRI-WEFA	Lexington, MA	781-860-6289	
Hickey	Kenneth	ENSR	2 Technology Park Dr., Westford, MA 01886-3140	978-589-3000	khickey@ensr.com
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Keegan	Michael	Corps of Engineers, New England Dist.	Concord, MA	978-318-8087	Michael.F.Keegan@usace.army.mil
Kral	Rick	Beacon Point Marina	49 River Road, Cos Cob CT 06807	203-661-4033	CKRAL@javanet.com
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Lewis	Dion	ENSR	2 Technology Park Dr., Westford, MA 01886-3140	978-589-3000	dlewis@ensr.com
Lopez	Leah	Save the Sound	20 Marshall St., So., Norwalk, CT	1-888-SAVE-4S	llopez@savethesound.org
McMahon	John	Brewer Yacht Yards	Branford, CT		BJM@BYY.com
Mitchell	David	ENSR	2 Technology Park Dr., Westford, MA 01886-3140	978-589-3000	dmitchell@ensr.com
Nash	Beth	Corps of Engineers, New York Dist.	26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY	212-264-5622	
Purnell	Marguerite	Fishers Island Conservancy	5 Old Litchfield Road, Washington, CT 06793	860-868-6624	Mpurnell@snet.net
Ring	Richard	Corps of Engineers, New England Dist.	Concord, MA		
Rodney	Ann	EPA	Boston, MA	617-918-1538	Rodney.Ann@epamail.epa.gov
Salata	Joseph	EPA	888 Washington Blvd., Stamford, CT 06904	203-977-1541	
Steadman	Geoff	CT Harbor Management Assoc.	345 Main St., Westport, CT	203-226-9383	
Tagliatela	Stephen	Saybrook Point Inn and Marina	2 Bridge St., Old Saybrook, CT 06475	860-395-2000	
Tennant	Meg	EPA	Boston, MA	617-918-1822	Tennant.Meg@epa.gov
Torney	David	EPA	Boston, MA	617-918-1627	
Westerson	Grant	CMTA	20 Plain Road Essex CT	860-767-2645	cmata@snet.net
Wisker	George	CT DEP/OLISP	79 Elm St., Hartford, CT	860-424-3034	
Zimmer	Kimberly	NY Sea Grant/Long Island Sound Office	146 Suffolk Hall, SUNY Stony Brook, NY 11794-5002	631-632-9216	

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